

February, 1968.

EIGHT BOARDS OF INQUIRY APPOINTED

Eight Boards of Inquiry have been appointed within recent months to look into complaints of discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Seven of these involved complaints of Negro residents of Windsor and Toronto, alleging that they were denied the rental of housing accommodations because of their race and colour. Three of the cases were settled before the scheduled dates of the hearings, thus precluding the need to hold the hearings. In three others, satisfactory settlements were reached at the time of the hearings. In the seventh housing case, the Commission is awaiting the Board's findings and recommendations. The seven housing cases are outlined below:

1. Mr. Michael McCurdy alleged that he was denied the rental of an apartment at 530 Mill Street, Windsor, owned by Mr. A. Zanette. Case settled prior to hearing.
2. Mr. Newton Gordon and his wife, Mrs. Vilora Gordon, alleged that they were denied the rental of an apartment at 881 Marion Avenue, Windsor, owned by Mr. Gaspere Grillo. Case settled during hearing held on February 20, 1968.
3. Mr. Newton Gordon and his wife, Mrs. Vilora Gordon, alleged that they were denied the rental of apartments at 2241 Mercer Avenue, Windsor, owned by Mr. Anthony Horen. Case settled prior to hearing.
4. Mr. Neville Tennant alleged that he had been refused the rental of an apartment at 24 Austin Terrace, Toronto, owned by Mrs. Georg Westenrieder. Case settled prior to hearing.
5. Miss Nora Gordon alleged that she has been refused the rental of an apartment at 527 Windermere Avenue, Toronto, owned by Mrs. Bessie Papadopoulos. Hearing held on February 8, 1968. The Board's findings will be submitted to the Commission.
6. & 7. Mrs. Olga Rigg and her brother, Mr. Desmond Downer, alleged that their landlord sought to evict them from their apartments at 420 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Nick Duldouras. Case settled during hearing on February 21, 1968.

In the first four cases, the settlement included offers of the next available accommodation in the buildings involved, letters of assurance to the Commission regarding future compliance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and apologies to the complainants for the inconvenience they had encountered. In the case involving 881 Marion Avenue, Windsor, the settlement also included the payment of \$40.00 to the complainant for the expenses

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incurred by him in seeking alternate accommodation, and an agreement by the owner to notify the complainant, the Commission and several community organizations in Windsor of any vacancies which occur in any of his buildings for the period of one year.

In the two complaints involving 430 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, the terms of the settlement included agreement on the part of the landlord that the complainants could remain in their apartments under the same terms and conditions afforded to other tenants. The landlord agreed further to make no effort to alter the terms or conditions of tenancy of the complainants without prior clarification of his reasons with the Commission. The landlord also agreed to return to Mr. Downer the \$10.00 by which he had previously raised his rent and to reduce the rent to its previous level. He agreed to compensate Mrs. Rigg for \$50.00 incurred in expenses as a result of the eviction notice.

8. The eighth Board of Inquiry involved employment and was held in London to investigate a case of alleged ethnic discrimination involving Mr. Maurice Ruest, a French-Canadian electrician and Mr. William A. Nicholls, agent for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 120. Mr. Ruest, who was employed as a journeyman electrician for Samuel Crump Company (Toronto) Limited, alleged that he was dismissed from employment as a result of the action of Mr. Nicholls. The Board of Inquiry took place on December 12, 1967 and February 13, 1968, and the findings and recommendations of the Board will be submitted to the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Commission is represented on the Ontario Committee for Human Rights, a body established to co-ordinate the activities of Ontario organizations in conjunction with the International Year. The Commission assisted the Committee in sending out letters and questionnaires to some 700 organizations in the province to find out how interested they were in the International Year and in co-operating with the Ontario Committee in a program or conference. Some 100 organizations in 30 communities answered the questionnaire positively and, as a result, a conference has been planned for March 2, 1968 at the University of Toronto. The Commission is working closely with the Ontario Committee in planning the conference and is assisting with the mailing of conference information material. Mr. W. A. Jones of the Ontario Teachers' Federation is serving as chairman of the Ontario Committee.

HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORTED IN OWEN SOUND

The Owen Sound City Council formally endorsed the aims of that community's human rights committee and pledged support for the Ontario Human Rights Code at a council meeting on November 20, 1967. Mr. Patrick Walsh, President of the Owen Sound Human Rights Committee, headed a delegation from the local human rights group which made a presentation to the Council. Mr. Walsh referred to problems of employment and housing discrimination against Negroes in that community and reviewed the plans of his committee to promote educational programs to combat prejudice and discrimination and to document the extent of the problem.

The Owen Sound Human Rights Committee was organized in 1966 by residents in the community following a public hearing into a complaint of employment discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code filed by a Negro woman who alleged that she had been refused

employment by an Owen Sound restaurant because of her race and colour. The Ontario Human Rights Commission has co-operated closely with the committee since its inception. The committee has forwarded a number of complaints of discrimination to the Commission for investigation.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

A series of educational programs have taken place at several university centres in Ontario. The meetings take the form of informal open houses at which overseas students are invited to meet with representatives of the Commission for a "get-acquainted" session. The purpose of the meetings is to make sure that overseas students are familiar with recent amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code, particularly in the area of housing. One meeting was held at the International House in Ottawa to which were invited students from Carleton University, Algonquin College and post-graduate fellows with the National Research Council. Programs were also held at McMaster University in Hamilton; at the University of Western Ontario in London; at the Lakehead University in Port Arthur--Fort William; at the University of Windsor; and at the International Centre, Queen's University. A further meeting is planned for the end of February at the University of Guelph.

PROJECTS WITH ITALIAN YOUTH

The Commission is co-operating with A.S.P.I., an Italian youth organization in Toronto (Assistenza Sociale Per gli Italiani--Social Help for Italians) which attempts to help Italian immigrants become familiar with government and social agency services available to them. The group has its headquarters at the St. Clair Centre of the Westwood Y.M.C.A. Several meetings were held with representatives of A.S.P.I. for the purpose of considering ways in which A.S.P.I. and the Commission could work together to make the Commission and the Ontario Human Rights Code known to the Italian community. Mr. Marvin Grossman of the Labour Standards Branch of the Department of Labour also attended one meeting to answer questions A.S.P.I. members had regarding the legislation covered by that Branch.

Several projects have been undertaken as a result of the meetings. A card, printed in Italian, describing the Code, has been delivered by A.S.P.I. members to churches with predominantly Italian membership for distribution to the members. A poster has been printed in Italian which has been sent to banks, libraries and churches in areas where the population is mainly Italian.

Also, a television program was taped for the "Italian Hour" on Channel 11, featuring Daniel G. Hill, Director of the Commission, Mr. Marvin Grossman of the Labour Standards Branch, and Mr. Paul Siraco, President of A.S.P.I.

CONFERENCE PLANNED ON AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT

In order to heighten and strengthen the Commission's program in relation to the Age Discrimination Act, plans are being made to hold a conference this year on age discrimination and the place of the older worker in our society. Experts in the field from the United States and Canada will be brought together to guide the Commission in its work in this area.



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NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT IN WINDSOR

In commemoration of the International Year for Human Rights, a special committee has been established in Windsor. Named the Windsor Advisory Committee on Employment, the new group will conduct a one-year program for the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the City of Windsor. The Committee will consider the following matters:

1. What employment and training opportunities exist in Windsor and what steps can be taken to assure that the members of ethnic and minority groups in particular are fully aware of these opportunities?
2. What employment problems are encountered by minority group people seeking employment in Windsor? Who, in the Windsor community, can provide information about these problems so that the Commission can work more effectively?
3. Given the resources of the Commission and the Ontario Department of Labour (with regard to apprenticeship, vocational and on-the-job training), what specific project should the Committee initiate?

The major function of the Committee is to advise the Commission and record what projects for the benefit of minority groups should be implemented by the Commission in the Windsor area.

The chairman of the Committee is Mrs. Cameron H. Montrose. The members are: Mr. George G. Burt, Mr. Armando F. DeLuca, Mr. Charles V. Gordon, Miss Valerie Kasurak, Dr. Howard McCurdy, Mr. John H. McGivney, Mr. Clare R. McCleod, and Mr. Saul Nosanchuk. Mayor John Wheelton is the honorary chairman. The secretary is Mr. Michael J. Marentette, Human Rights Officer for the Windsor-Chatham Regional Office of the Commission. The Committee held its first meeting on January 30, 1968.

NORTHERN PROGRAM

Considerable field work has been carried on during the past year throughout the northern part of the province. Over one hundred meetings have been held with representatives of social agencies, clergy, employers, labour and Indian communities in order to determine how the Commission can be of assistance to the Indian people in the area. Approximately twenty-five of these meetings were held on Indian reserves.

The Commission's northern officer, Mr. R. W. McPhee, served as a resource person for a day-long training session of volunteers of the Company of Young Canadians. The Company has recruited Indian and white youth to work with Indian people in northwestern Ontario. As part of their training process, they were required to familiarize themselves with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the work of the Commission.

Meetings were held with representatives of the Manitoulin Youth Council for the purpose of planning a human rights workshop, held in February, 1968, on Manitoulin Island. The Youth Council includes both Indian and white young people. The Commission's northern officer also participated in the workshop.

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE IN KENORA

The Commission has met with the re-organized Mayor's Committee on Indian Affairs in Kenora. The Municipal Council of Kenora recently appointed several new members to the committee which is under the leadership of Mayor E. L. Carter. Included among the members of the committee are: Mr. Peter Kelly, Kenora Indian Association; Chief Fred Green, Shoal Lake Reserve #39; Dr. A. M. Torrie, Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation; Mr. David Greyeyes, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Chief Roy McDonald, White Dog Reserve; and Mr. D. J. Sweeney, President, Zone 16A, Ontario Hotel Association.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 15, 1968, at which time submissions will be made from the Kenora Indian Association, the Thunderbird Club of Kenora High School, and the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

The Older Worker is the title of a recent brochure published by the Commission in relation to the Age Discrimination Act. Available in both English and French, it describes the role of the older worker in our present-day economy.

A new pamphlet will be published shortly in honour of International Year for Human Rights. Entitled, Case Studies and Community Action Programs, it describes the conciliation process and contains a selection of case studies under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Age Discrimination Act. Its purpose is to show how complaints are actually handled by the Commission. The pamphlet also describes community action programs undertaken by the Commission in co-operation with community agencies.

The relationship of employers to the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Age Discrimination Act is the subject of a new brochure entitled, Employers and Human Rights, shortly to be published by the Commission. The brochure describes the provisions of the Code and the A.D.A., outlines the responsibilities which the Commission has to employers and, in turn, the responsibilities of employers under the statutes and in relation to employment agencies in complying with Ontario's human rights legislation in hiring procedures.

All of the new publications together with the other literature published by the Commission are available without charge.

NEW BOOKS FOR LIBRARY

The Commission's specialized human rights library has been enlarged by some 50 books and approximately 150 pamphlets and articles. The library functions primarily as a reference and research collection to assist organizations and students active in the human rights field. The public is welcome to study any of the material in the Commission's offices.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN PORTLAND, OREGON

The Director of the Commission, Daniel G. Hill, addressed the City Club of Portland, Oregon, and appeared on both radio and television in that city in October. The Director was in Portland to attend a meeting of the planning committee for the annual conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (formerly the Conference of Commissions for Human Rights).

